

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney (Mr. Patrick S. Yoder with Reg. No 37, 479), on September 30, 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. **Cancelled claim 7.**
5. **In claim 9**, line 3, after interest; delete "and", and last line after images, insert ---
; and analyzing the temporal change image via a second CAD algorithm different from the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image; wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image has a sensitivity and a specificity to produce a desired level of positive identifications of potential features of interest, and wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the temporal change image is configured to reduce the positive identifications of features of interest. ---.
6. **Cancelled claims 11-13.**
7. **Cancelled claims 18-27.**
8. **In claim 28**, last line after images, insert --- ; wherein analyzing the first and second images includes quantifying a change in a feature of interest between the first image and the second image. ---.

9. Cancelled claim 29.

10. In claim 31, line 3, after interest; delete “and”, and last line after images, insert --
- ; and means for analyzing the temporal change image via a second CAD algorithm
different from the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image; wherein the CAD
algorithm used for analyzing the first image has a sensitivity and a specificity to produce
a desired level of positive identifications of potential features of interest, and wherein the
CAD algorithm used for analyzing the temporal change image is configured to reduce
the positive identifications of features of interest. ---.

11. Cancelled claims 32-33.

12. In claim 34, last line after images, insert --- ; wherein analyzing the first and
second images includes quantifying a change in a feature of interest between the first
image and the second image. ---.

13. In claim 36, last line after images, insert --- , and for analyzing the temporal
change image via a second CAD algorithm different from the CAD algorithm used for
analyzing the first image; wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image
has a sensitivity and a specificity to produce a desired level of positive identifications of
potential features of interest, and wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the
temporal change image is configured to reduce the positive identifications of features of
interest. ---.

14. Cancelled claims 37-38.

15. In claim 39, last line after images, insert ---, wherein analyzing the first and second images includes quantifying a change in a feature of interest between the first image and the second image. ---.

Drawings

16. The drawings were received on November 26, 2003. The Examiner accepts these drawings.

Reasons for Allowance

17. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art independently or in combination fails to teach or suggest, image temporal change detection and display method and apparatus comprising (a) generating a temporal change image based upon first and second images from different times by segmenting the first and second images and registering at least a portion of the segmented images with one another, wherein the first and second images are generated by different imaging modalities in combination into other elements and features of claims 1, 30 and 35 ; (b) analyzing the temporal change image via a second CAD algorithm different from the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image; wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the first image has a sensitivity and a specificity to produce a desired level of positive identifications of potential features of interest, and wherein the CAD algorithm used for analyzing the temporal change image is configured to reduce the positive identifications of features of interest in combination into other elements and features of claims 9, 31 and 36; (c) analyzing a first image via

at least one CAD algorithm to identify a feature of interest and if a feature of interest is identified in the first image, accessing a second image from a different time than the first image and analyzing the first and second images wherein analyzing the first and second images includes quantifying a change in a feature of interest between the first image and the second image in combination into other elements and features of claims 28, 34 and 39 .

18. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 14-17, 28, 30, 31, 34-36 and 39 (now renumbered 1-20) are allowed.

19. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kano et al (U. S. 5,359,513) disclose method and system for detection of interval change in temporally sequential chest images.

Burke et al (U. S. 6,421,454 B1) disclose optical correlator assisted detection of calcifications for breast biopsy.

Contact Information

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner, can be reached at (571) 272-7401. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Abolfazl Tabatabai/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

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